

REMARKS

The Examiner rejects claims 1-6 in the subject application, claim 7 was previously withdrawn. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-7 are canceled and new claims 8-23 are presented. Claims 8-23 (3 independent claims; 16 total claims) remain pending in the application. Support for the various amendments may be found in the originally filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

In response to Applicants' appeal brief, the Examiner issued a new non-final office action rejecting claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP0624004A1, ("Devlin") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,374 ("Brady"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection; however, the rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-7.

New claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for his time in a telephonic Examiner interview on October 20, 2004, in which a possible new claim set was discussed. In that discussion, the novel aspects of the invention were emphasized. Although further searching may occur, it was agreed that claim sets along the lines of those discussed would overcome any prior art cited thus far.

Thus, after the interview it was Applicants' impression that the Examiner better grasps the invention and what Applicants desire to protect. Applicants also understand that Devlin and Brady are no longer considered relevant by the Examiner. Therefore, although Applicants disagree with some of the last Office Action's characterizations of Devlin and Brady, it does not appear to be necessary to respond to those characterizations any further.

During the interview, and with the new claim set in mind, Applicants explained and clarified the method and structure that facilitates creation of a high power (greater than 1 Watt) and high frequency (greater than 26 GHz) block-up converter. The fundamental differences with the prior art were discussed, in particular the significant difference between a block-up converter that is both high power and high frequency and a

block-up converter that is only low power/high frequency or high power/low frequency (the first being far more difficult to build than the latter two).

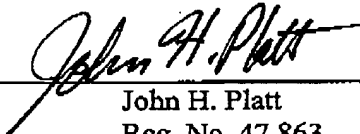
Again, Applicants believe that the interview resulted in a greater appreciation on the part of the Examiner of the structure that facilitates construction of such a high power/high frequency block-up converter. Applicants explained the roll of the subharmonic mixer in facilitating creation of the high power/high frequency block-up converter and how high frequency interfaces give rise to detrimental noise in the signal and limit the ability to build useful high power/high frequency block-up converters. In addition, structurally placing the subharmonic mixer, filter, and power amplification device on a single multi-chip module facilitates building a high power/high frequency block-up converter.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 8-23 properly set forth that which Applicants regard as their invention and are allowable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (602)382-6367 at the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject Application. Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814. **This statement does NOT authorize charge of the issue fee.**

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Respectfully submitted,

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